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June 8, 2010

Hon. Tom Rasmussen, Chair, Transportation Committee
 Seattle City Council
 PO Box 34025
 Seattle, WA 98124-4025

Re: Support of W. Nickerson St. Rechannelization Project

Dear Councilmember Rasmussen:

The Seattle Bicycle Advisory Board (SBAB) writes to support the rechannelization of West Nickerson Street as proposed by the Seattle Department of Transportation (SDOT). While some components of the W. Nickerson St. project are recommended in the 2007 Seattle Bicycle Master Plan, it is first and foremost designed to make the street safer for everyone, particularly pedestrians.

National studies, as well as the recent analysis of Stone Way conducted by SDOT, show that similar rechannelization projects retain peak hour vehicle capacity, reduce vehicle collisions, and decrease speeding – all while making crossings safer for people and bicycles.

SBAB recommends that SDOT perform “before and after” monitoring to ensure that the rechannelization project is functioning for all roadway users. A data-driven analysis will help the City understand the results so that useful information and design criteria can be used to evaluate this project and similar future rechannelization projects.

The “before and after” monitoring should include, but not be limited to, the following parameters:

- Public Outreach/Public Opinion
- Travel Speeds
- Accidents and Collisions
- Traffic Volumes - Perform traffic counts that include all users: auto, truck/freight, transit, pedestrians and bicyclist for daily, peak and off peak periods.
- Traffic analysis - Perform "before and after" Levels of Service, Travel Times and Travel Delay studies.
- Neighborhood traffic diversion

SBAB recommends the City work with the various stakeholders to establish a mutually agreed-upon criteria list and monitoring methodology prior to project development.

The Seattle Bicycle Advisory Board shall advise the City Council, the Mayor, and all departments and offices of the city on matters related to bicycling, and the impacts which actions by the city may have upon bicycling; and shall have opportunity to contribute to all aspects of the city's planning processes insofar as they relate to bicycling.

-City Council
 Resolution 25534

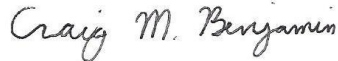
SBAB also recommends the City Council Transportation Committee receive a briefing from SDOT on the results of its *Stone Way Ave N. Rechannalization Before and After Study*. The study offers an informative and compelling Seattle example that illustrates how rechannelizations can improve safety along streets that meet a specific set of criteria.

As advisors to City Council, we are at your service and will be happy to talk with you more about the above recommendations supporting the rechannalization of W. Nickerson St.

Thank you,



Blake Trask
Chair



Craig Benjamin
Vice Chair

Cc: Mayor Michael McGinn, City of Seattle; Peter Hahn, SDOT; City of Seattle Council Transportation Committee Members